

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-10 NEA-06 ISO-00 CAB-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

DRC-01 L-02 MC-02 PM-03 /044 W

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R 091414Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6357

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

BRUSSELS FOR FAA REP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PANAM'S FOURTH FREQUENCY AND BLOCKED-SEAT
ARRANGEMENT WITH NIGERIA AIRWAYS

REF: (A) LAGOS 4563 (NOTAL)

(B) BLODGETT MEMO TO FILES JUNE 1, 1974 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PANAM REP PETER LEGRO REPORTS THAT FMG HAS FORMALLY
TURNED DOWN PANAM'S MOST RECENT REQUEST FOR FOURTH FREQUENCY
THROUGH LAGOS (REF. A). ACCORDING TO LEGRO, HOWEVER, WORDING
OF REJECTION SEEMS TO LEAVE DOOR OPEN FOR RENEWAL OF REQUEST
AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

2. AMONG POSSIBLE REASONS FOR FMG DECISION, LEGRO CITES
INTEREST OF NIGERIA AIRWAYS (WT) IN OBTAINING FOR ITSELF NOT
ONLY LAGOS-KINSHASA ROUTE, BUT ALSO, PERHAPS, LAGOS-NEW YORK
ROUTE. HIS INFORMATION IS THAT LATTER WOULD PROBABLY TAKE
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FORM OF ASSOCIATION WITH AIR AFRIQUE ON PRESENTLY EXISTING

FLIGHTS. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INDEPENDENT REPORT THAT WT MAY BE ON VERGE OF PURCHASING FOUR USED BOEING 707'S FROM BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL (SEPARATE MESSAGE). IF THIS REPORT CORRECT, IT LEAVES ROOM FOR SPECULATION THAT WT IS CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR RIGHTS TO FLY ITS OWN AIRCRAFT ON LAGOS-NEW YORK ROUTE, A MOVE (JUDGING FROM RECENT EXPERIENCE OF GHANA AIRWAYS) THAT COULD BRING IT INTO CONFRONTATION WITH USG.

3. MEANWHILE, LEGRO REPORTS THAT RECENT MEETING IN US BETWEEN WT CHAIRMAN FRANCIS OBI AND SENIOR PANAM OFFICIALS HAS RESULTED IN VERBAL AGREEMENT ON NEW BLOCKED SEAT ARRANGEMENT (REF.B.). UNDER NEW ARRANGEMENT PANAM WOULD PROVIDE WT WITH ONE FIRST CLASS AND SIX ECONOMY CLASS SEATS ON ALL THREE WEEKLY FREQUENCIES (PRESENT ARRANGEMENT CALLS FOR TWO FIRST CLASS AND TEN ECONOMY CLASS SEATS ON ONE WEEKLY FREQUENCY). WT WOULD HAVE OPTION TO LEASE ADDITIONAL SEATS AT 33-1/3 PER CENT SURCHARGE, AND ENTIRE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FIXED-FORMULA REVISION IN TWELVE MONTHS TIME.

4. PANAM FEELS NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS PROFITABLE FOR WT, AND HOPES IT WILL PAVE WAY FOR FUTURE RENEWAL OF FOURTH FREQUENCY REQUEST.

5. ABOVE PROPOSAL FORMALLY PRESENTED TO OBI IN LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1974. COPY BEING POUCHED TO WALKER AT STATE. REINHARDT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIR ROUTES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAGOS09422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-0372
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741060/aaaabzli.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) LAGOS 4563 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: PANAM'S FOURTH FREQUENCY AND BLOCKED-SEAT ARRANGEMENT WITH NIGERIA AIRWAYS
TAGS: EAIR, NI, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005